

REMARKS

Applicant acknowledges with thanks the Examiner's allowance of Claims 6-9. Pursuant to the Examiner's request, Claims 6 and 8 have been amended to correct minor informalities noted by the Examiner. Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 6-9 are now in formal condition for issuance of the formal Notice of Allowance.

Claims 1-4 have been rejected under the provisions of Title 35 USC 102(b) based on Tsui et al US Patent No. 4 641 986. Claims 1 and 5 have been rejected under the provisions of Title 35 USC 103(a) based on Tsui et al US Patent No. 5 848 815 combined with the aforementioned '986 patent. Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejections.

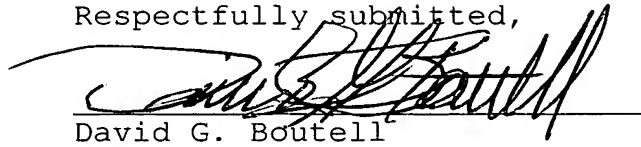
Claim 1 has been amended to include the features previously contained in Claim 2 (now cancelled) and the feature shown specifically in Figures 4-7, namely, the feature wherein the opposing faces of the separate pieces of the body are identical to one another. Claim 5 has been amended to recite that the separate pieces are identical to one another. It is clear that the Tsui et al '986 reference does not disclose the opposing faces of the separate pieces of the body to be identical to one another and comprised of one half of each of the first and second sockets therein. It is additionally recited that the sockets open outwardly at a surface on each thereof and configured so that when the surface on the separate pieces oppose and engage one another, the two sockets will become defined. Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1-4 now patentably define over the '986 reference as required by the provisions of Title 35 USC 102.

Furthermore, the Tsui et al '986 and '815 references do not disclose and, therefore, do not provide the requisite motivation to those of ordinary skill in the art to provide identical opposing surfaces on the separate pieces of the body. In addition, Claim 5 recites that the separate pieces are identical to one another, an additional feature not disclosed or even remotely suggested in '986 and '815. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1-5 patentably

distinguish the '986 and '815 references in a way envisioned by the makers of Title 35 USC 103.

Further and favorable consideration of this application is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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136.07/05